

# California GARDEN

January/February 2006

Volume 97 No. 1

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## An Orchid Show to Remember

*Plus more events featured  
in this issue's calendar*

## Remembering Kate Sessions

*Seasonal tips from the  
legendary gardener*

# From the Editor

It's my pleasure to welcome you to the January/February 2006 issue of *California Garden*. As the new editor of the magazine, I'm honored to be associated with the San Diego Floral Association, given its rich history and commitment to service throughout the county. It's my goal to make sure that *California Garden* honors that history by continuing to serve the needs of its readers and also to update the magazine for future growth. It's an exciting prospect.

This is one of the reasons I'm happy to devote space in this issue to an article written by Kate Sessions nearly 100 years ago. Its value and timeliness are still obvious today, and it shows how San Diego Floral has been at the cutting edge of offering horticultural advice and knowledge for some time. Throughout this year, which leads into San Diego Floral's centennial in 2007, we'll be taking a look back to showcase the organization's growth. I hope you'll enjoy taking this trip down memory lane with us.

As you flip through this issue, you'll no doubt notice some changes that should make the magazine more accessible and easily readable for you. I welcome your feedback and guidance on these changes, because I'm looking forward to making each issue of *California Garden* a useful and reliable resource for you. Are there features you'd like to see in the magazine? Particular articles? Tips or advice? If so, please let me know by sending an email to [editor@sdfloal.org](mailto:editor@sdfloal.org) or write me at the address below.

I'd also like to let you know that we need your help. We'd like to ask you, the members and subscribers, to share your knowledge and expertise with all the readers of *California Garden*. If you have a useful tip or special insight to share, please email or write. If you'd like to write an article or donate your time and expertise some other way (by assisting with the website, letting us use your photographs, or in some other manner), please let me know.

When I first began editing this issue, I did so knowing that the magazine has a special place in the hearts and minds of its readers. I've tried to be respectful of that while also giving the magazine room to expand. The editorial board and I have many exciting things in mind for the magazine over the next year, so stick with us—I think you'll be pleased.

Thanks for reading, and happy gardening,



Looking for the index? You can now find it, and much more, online at [www.sdfloal.org](http://www.sdfloal.org).

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Share your expertise with us and help make *California Garden* a better magazine! We're looking for freelance volunteer writers and photographers who can supply content. We also need web experts to help us with our website. If you'd like to volunteer or would like more information, contact the SDFA office at 619-232-5762 or send an email to [editor@sdfloal.org](mailto:editor@sdfloal.org).

## New Feature!

In the center spread of this issue, you'll notice our new calendar feature. We hope you'll find this a useful resource for planning.

Both January and February now have separate calendars that you can pull out of the magazine and hang on your wall. On the back, you'll find detailed descriptions of each event. Let us know what you think of this revised calendar and tell us about any other features you would like to see added.





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# California GARDEN

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**THE MAGAZINE FOR THE HANDS-ON GARDENER**  
January/February 2006

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# Remembering Kate Sessions

## For the new year, three articles from the past from

### THE JANUARY GARDEN

*First published in California Garden, January 1910, Volume 1, No. 7*

Usually January will be a busy month for the gardener—because we expect some rain and feel in a hurry to plant while the sun shines. This January it looks as though we must walk our garden path in rubbers and wonder how they make gardens in Oregon, where it has the reputation of raining all the time.

San Diego soil was never before so full of water on January 1st. It is ruinous to soil to spade and work it when wet, and about all we can do is to weed the pansy bed, transplant or thin out a few of the stocks, the bulbs just sprouting the surface, and seedling beds.

On Coronado and Point Loma, where the soil is very sandy, conditions will be more favorable for work.

Summer sweet pea planting is at hand. Cuttings of all deciduous stock, including grape vines and fig trees and the European sycamore, may also now be planted; also carnations and roses—all that you can crowd into the ground.

Prune up the Boston Ivy or *Ampelopsis Veitchii*, very severely, not leaving one loose end. If any of the vine is clinging to the window casing or close to a door frame, be sure and cut them all away. These little vines, one-eighth of an inch thick, will in time become one inch thick, and you would not want it then on your window frame. Save the strongest and best wood and make cuttings a foot long, and plant against a fence or wall on a north and east or a west side.

If the *Ficus repens* and *Bignonia tweediana* vines have long and loose ends, clip them back close to the main stem. They will weather the winter storms and grow better in the spring for the close clipping.

It would be well for you to begin a garden book, noting down what you do—when you plant and prune and slip. Also a memorandum of what you observe in bloom about the city during the month. Every one should observe the groups of flowering shrubs and trees along the west drive in the park and also on Golden Hill.

The *Raphiolepis ovata* is fine now—blooms and berries. The *Acacia Baileyana* is full of bud and worth much study and observation. In fact, all the *Acacias* and *Genistas* will be exceptionally fine this season because of the great amount of moisture. They both flourish under these present conditions.

Every garden that can should have an *Acacia Baileyana* and a *Genista Canariensis*, for they bloom from January 15th to March 1st, and are very beautiful.

### FERNERIES FOR THE GARDEN

*First published in California Garden, January 1910, Volume 1, No. 7*

Your garden is too wet to spade, the weeds grow slowly, and there is leisure now to plan a fern bed and also construct it. The planting of it takes but a few hours.

Will you gather the cobbles from a neighboring vacant lot or canyon, or will you go farther and secure some artistic moss-covered hardpan or irregular rocks of various colors and moss-covered? Until one begins to build ferneries and hunt for beautiful rocks, you do not realize their detail and their beauty. The fernery should have a north exposure, protected from the west by shrubs or an extension of the house or a lattice. An eastern, or better northeastern, exposure, perfectly protected from the south sun, is the second choice.

Beneath a lath house you can grow almost any kind of fern with success. Many a yard can pare space for a small lath house that will grow in limited space more beauty than a large garden.



Ferns need plenty of water, but they need more an excellent drainage, and therefore the fernery should stand above the surface of the surrounding ground, which also adds to its attractiveness. Dig out the soil for twelve to eighteen inches; cover the bottom with coarse rocks and bricks, then some old chips or logs, or even trash, tree trimmings, etc. Then arrange any old stump you can secure, and some large rocks, the taller ones at the back or in the center. Then fill in the prepared soil for about one foot—packing it sufficiently so it will not settle

# San Diego's gardening pioneer.

## THE FEBRUARY GARDEN

*First published in California Garden, February 1910, Volume 1, No. 8*

much. Next place your moss-covered and irregular rocks so pockets six to eighteen inches in length will be formed. Do not bury these rocks, for every bit of their attractive surface must show. Add a small log, two or three inches of the second quality of prepared soil, saving a good supply for putting around the plants. The shorter ferns will occupy the front row or border, and the tallest the back and higher section—or the center, if the fernery is to be seen on all sides.

The native ferns, common in all our nearby canyons, can be dug now without disturbing them, and will form the border. *Polypodium vulgare*, maiden hair, silver-back, and coffee fern are on the north slopes, but the birdfoot fern is found beneath bushes on the mesa—very abundantly about where the new boulevard road across Mission Valley joins the old Miramar Road.

A tree fern will add much dignity to a fern group and give shade to the more delicate varieties. The *Alsophila Australis* is very hardy here—standing considerable sun and is a fast grower.

The *Woodwardia radicans*, a native fern all over California, is a huge grower and needs a corner of the background for its best placing. Knowing the size of a developed fern is necessary for best arrangement. The following list of ferns are easily grown and desirable:

*Pteris tremula*, *Pteris longifolia*, *Pteris lineata*, *Pteris lineata alba*, *Pteris lineata crestata*, Sword Ferns—*Nephrolepis feejeensis*; *Acrostichum scandens*, *Polystichum coriaceum*, *Onchium Japonica*, *Blechnum occidentale*, Holly fern, *Sitobolium* [Dennstaedtia] *cicutarium*, *Asplenium* in variety, *Davallias* in variety. The Boston fern and its interesting varieties, the *Pieris*, *Elegantissima*, and *Whitmanii*.

A few flowering plants add much to the fernery, but they must not be too abundant. The lobelia, Cyclamen, Chinese primrose, and begonia are very harmonious additions.

The soil is most important and must be well prepared. Leaf mold from beneath oak or hardwood trees, three parts; manure, several years old, one part; sand, one-half part; coarse chippy material from some old woodpile, one part; some good, rich soil, one part. Thoroughly mix and remix. One can make good leaf soil by saving in a pit grass clippings, tree trimmings, green weeds, some sawdust, and a little manure and soil. Wet down frequently and let stand for a year.

**W**eed—weed—weed and cultivate. While these delightful warm and sunny days last it is most favorable for spading over the ground that has become dry enough. It should break to pieces with the turning, mellow and loose. If the ground does not crumble, wait a few days longer for the wet spots to dry out. If you can spade under the weeds it is equivalent to manuring. All the orchards now grow a crop of weeds or vetch to be plowed under in March.

Any seedlings that are large enough to be transplanted into the newly spaded and mellow beds should be set out. Spring seed-sowing can go forward daily from now on. If the surface of the soil becomes a little hard and crusted, sprinkle enough to moisten, then cultivate or spade and rake. Keep the soil loose and light, and free from baking and crusting. You can plant seeds of the following with good results:

<i>Centaureas</i> in variety	<i>Gaillardias</i>
<i>Salpiglossis</i>	French Marigolds
<i>Scabiosa</i>	Scarlet flax
<i>Verbenas</i>	Summer blooming Sweet Peas

Any Sweet Peas that are already growing can have the brush on wire or string support arranged for them now.

Any dead or ungainly wood among the roses or deciduous shrubs should now be pruned off—some trimmings can be used for cuttings.

This winter has been well adapted for the deciduous shrubs and trees, and good care now will be the final stroke to bring about superior results in growth and bloom.

The pansy bed can stand weeding, cultivating and enriching every three weeks, and finer blooms will result.

As you drive during this month over Point Loma or the Mesa, to the Torrey Pines, or to Grossmont and Alpine, you will see, first, the white *Ceanothus* or wild Lilacs, and next the beautiful blue variety, full of bud now, coming into bloom. No cultivated shrub can excel it, and few can equal them for symmetry of form and beauty of flower and foliage. If you are wise you will mark with tag and string a few of the smaller shrubs, and next October and November return and dig them for your garden. Observe their location, whether on a north, east or west slope.

Are you noting the fine color of the laurestinus this winter, now fast bursting into bloom, and the feathery *Grevillea* and *Thelemanniana*, both very desirable winter blooming shrubs?







# December Nights 2005

By KATHY TAYLOR DE MURILLO

A record number of 17,890 people visited the San Diego Floral Association Christmas display during the annual December Nights event in Balboa Park. Room 101 of Casa del Prado was magically transformed into a winter fairyland of pastel colors, lights, Christmas trees, fireplaces, holiday tablescapes, and festive flower arrangements. SDFA would like to thank the following garden clubs, plant societies, and friends for their participation in this event: Walter Anderson Nursery for the exiting entry design, Hon Non Bo Club for their display, the Japanese Friendship Garden for the origami tree, Bonita Valley Garden Club for the pink vignette, Poway Garden Club for the yellow vignette, Mission Hills Garden Club for the peach vignette, Point Loma Garden Club for the blue vignette, the San Diego Herb Club and the SDFA Flower Arrangers' Guild for the lavender vignette, SDFA Executive Board members for the green vignette, La Jolla Garden Club for donating a tree, San Diego Geranium Society for the fresh geranium tree, San Diego Camellia Society for the fresh camellia tree, San Diego Rose Society for the fresh rose tree, San Diego Fern Society (and their mascot, Baxter) for the unique fern tree, and Village Garden Club of La Jolla for the enchanting all-white tree on the stage with rotating pastel colors. We wish to thank the SDFA Flower Arranger's Guild for the beautiful floral designs in the center of the room and all the volunteers, without whom this event would not be possible. Thank you for working at the 27th annual gingerbread cookie sales booth, the protea flower sales tables, setting up, tearing

down, and all the host and hostess volunteers. Each of you is greatly appreciated.

The annual Members Tea was also well-attended and gave our members and guests a sneak peak at the display as well as a chance to see friends and meet new ones. Thank you to our president, Dee Krutop, and her committee for putting on another wonderful tea.

Mark your 2006 calendars now so you can volunteer and be a part of the fun at next year's December Nights festivities.



photograph courtesy of Ann M. Garwood, [www.hillquest.com](http://www.hillquest.com)

## February Meeting News

The February meeting of the San Diego Floral Association will be held at 7 p.m. in Room 101 of Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, on Tuesday, February 21, 2006. Admission is free.

The program for the evening is entitled "Living with Flowers." Anne K. Carver, weekly garden columnist for "Today's Local News," will show easy floral designs that anyone can make straight from their own gardens. Many gardeners love flowers but sometimes hesitate to use them in their homes. Anne Carver will inspire you to use foliage you already grow. Learn about the romantic Victorian language of flowers, as well as new ways to include flowers in daily life, like drying and pressing them for cards and pictures. Simple techniques for making the petite Victorian nosegays known as "Tussie Mussies" from materials common in San Diego gardens will be demonstrated. She will also show ways

to make simple floral gift wrap and homemade perfume and cologne. Find out which flowers are good enough to eat and how to use them. Edible flowers can be used to create beautiful and tasty dishes!

Anne Carver currently gardens in Lakeside, California. She is a reformed paralegal, UCCE Master Gardener, docent at Carlsbad Flower Fields, instructor at San Diego Natural History Museum, garden writer, lecturer, craft instructor, and floral designer, as well as a garden expert on TV and radio.

A catered dinner is available prior to the meeting at 6 p.m. Checks for dinner reservations (\$11 for members, \$15 for nonmembers) should be mailed to San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado, San Diego, CA 92101-1622 prior to February 20, 2006. For reservations, call 619-232-5762.

# Now is the time

## AFRICAN VIOLETS

BARBARA CONRAD

- ▶ **To brush** leaves with a soft brush to remove dust.
- ▶ **To wash** plants if needed. Try putting tin foil under lowest leaves and around pot. Lean plant under warm water at sink. Use a brush or gently rub leaves with fingers. Dry droplets of water, particularly in centers of plants, using a paper towel to remove moisture.
- ▶ **To refrain** from placing violets in direct sunlight until completely dry to avoid burning leaves resulting in spotty discoloration.
- ▶ **To avoid** placing plants in cold or drafty areas, which could stunt growth.
- ▶ **To place** violets where morning sun comes into an area where there is some air circulation to promote growth and avoid mildew.
- ▶ **To rotate** plants a quarter turn weekly to maintain symmetry in leaves.
- ▶ **To enjoy** the beauty violets bring into our world.

## BEGONIAS

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

- ▶ **To watch** the watering program; slower growth requires less water. Do not allow to dry out or to become too wet.
- ▶ **To keep** plants clean; remove dead leaves and old foliage.
- ▶ **To start** cutting back cane-type and shrublike types.
- ▶ **To add** more planting mix as needed to keep roots covered.
- ▶ **To spray** for mildew.
- ▶ **To control** slugs, snails, mealybugs, and loopers.
- ▶ **To start**, in February, tuberous types for summer blooms.

## BONSAI

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB

- ▶ **To collect** native stock in the California region, where permitted. Plant the native trees in a larger container, not a bonsai pot.
- ▶ **To graft** conifers, deciduous, and evergreen trees.
- ▶ **To use** lime-sulfur spray on deciduous trees.
- ▶ **To reduce** watering if it's a rainy period.
- ▶ **To prune** fruit-bearing bonsai.
- ▶ **To watch** for aphids and other sucking insects; spray accordingly.
- ▶ **To remember** not to fertilize your trees. Allow plants to rest.
- ▶ **To start** in February to repot and transplant some varieties if the weather is favorable.

## BROMELIADS

MARY SIEMERS

- ▶ **To keep** plants from damage by possible hail. Give them overhead protection such as placing them under trees, shade cloth, or any other suitable material.
- ▶ **To protect** plants from freezing temperatures; keep at least two inches above ground and cover with newspapers, sheets, etc. or bring them indoors.
- ▶ **To be careful** when having plants indoors not to place them in front of a heating vent or in a drafty area.
- ▶ **To empty** water from outdoor plants when it has rained consistently for two or three days. The weight of too much water can cause the leaves to spread apart, affecting the compact form.
- ▶ **To cut** the frequency of watering during the cooler weather.
- ▶ **To not** fertilize until weather begins to warm.

## CACTI AND SUCCULENTS

JOSEPH A. BETZLER

- ▶ **To remember** to rest winter-dormant plants and keep the winter growers happy. Be careful with water and fertilizer as it gets cold. Water in the early part of a sunny day so water will evaporate and fungi will not start easily. If it looks like rain, hold off on the water.
- ▶ **To protect** outside plants from excessive rain if possible. If frost is likely, a little protection with a piece of paper or plastic can save a plant. Many tropical succulents will turn into a mass of soggy pulp if frozen. Remember to remove cover when conditions become more favorable.
- ▶ **To watch** new cuttings. They may not root quickly. If you can supply heat, you should not have much of a problem.
- ▶ **To keep** an eye on the seedlings. Fungi can be a problem at this time. Snails can make a great midnight snack of the seedlings. Use some form of snail and slug control if needed.
- ▶ **To clean** up old pots and pick up the last of the old leaves and other debris. You do not want to encourage mice and roof rats. Rodents can make a mess of your prize plants.
- ▶ **To note** those plants you want to propagate the next growing season. Find out how to make new starts. Plan your spring display now.

## CALIFORNIA NATIVES

KATHY TAYLOR DE MURILLO

- ▶ **To visit** local nurseries that specialize in California native plants, such as Las Pilitas in Escondido, Tree of Life in San Juan

Capistrano, The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, Theodore Payne Foundation in Sun Valley, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, and many other local San Diego nurseries.

► **To purchase** and plant wildflower seeds. You will have repeat blooms each year with sufficient rainfall. Remember, not all native plants are drought-tolerant and may need to have supplemental watering.

► **To check** for snails and insects around your native plants and to weed regularly. Native plants do not compete well with other plants and weeds for getting nutrients out of the soil.

► **To choose** plants well adapted to Southern California. Some good choices for the San Diego area are Catalina cherry, Cleveland sage, Torrey pine, toyon, western redbud, and Ceanothus. Ask at the local nurseries for suggestions of other natives suited to your own microclimate.

## CAMELLIAS

KATHY TAYLOR DE MURILLO

► **To buy** plants in bloom. Some variegated camellias that do well in San Diego are Ay-Ay-Ay, a japonica with red and white striped flowers and yellow stamens; Daikagura, an early blooming japonica with peonylike blooms of red with white splotches; Adolphe Audusson Special, a medium-height japonica with white splotches on red flowers and some yellow on the leaves; Guilio Nuccio Variegated, a japonica with large coral rose flowers blotched with white; Tama-No-Ura, a japonica with naturally occurring red flowers bordered in white; and Frank Hauser Variegated, a reticulata hybrid with rose flowers blotched in white.

► **To plant** or transplant camellias. Always transplant camellias when they are blooming. Most prefer part shade with northern or eastern exposure to the sun. If planted in an area with south or west exposure, it is necessary to use some type of shade, preferably with 50 percent protection from sun.

► **To continue** feeding in January with a low nitrogen fertilizer, such as 0-10-10, and iron. Adding gypsum helps prevent tip burn.

► **To protect** from petal blight by picking up dead blooms and leaves from around plants daily.

► **To continue** to disbud if you desire larger yet fewer blooms.

► **To continue** to water. Many camellias are planted under eaves or canopies and do not receive the proper watering from winter rains alone.

► **To display** your lovely camellias during the winter months when few other such spectacular flowers are available in your garden to bring in, enjoy, and share branches with friends.

## DAHLIAS

ABE JANZEN

► **To dig** any tubers left in the ground. By early January, the tops should be completely withered. Cut tops just above the ground.

► **To store** tubers without dividing. Store in vermiculite or sand, leaving on the soil that clings to them. Keep in a cool place.

► **To inspect** those tubers stored earlier for any sign of shriveling. If too dry, add a little moisture.

► **To start** in February to prepare the planting bed. Turn the soil, add humus, and fumigate. Dig in humus and add equal parts of superphosphate and sulfate of potash. Turn over well. Add fertilizer two or three weeks before planting.

► **To sprout** some selected roots in February. These make good cuttings. Bottom heat may be applied to encourage sprouting.

## EPIPHYLLUMS

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY

► **To take** advantage of beneficial rains. Collect the rainwater for future use. Store in opaque containers to prevent infestation of mosquito larvae and buildup of algae.

► **To protect** plants from frost and strong wintery winds.

► **To bait** for snails and slugs.

► **To spray** insecticides only if necessary. Do not use oil-base types. Use Orthene, malathion, and Cygon available locally. Read and follow directions carefully.

► **To prune** out dead and unsightly growth, allowing more energy to be used by newer and healthier branches.

► **To feed** mature plants with a 0-10-10 fertilizer to promote blooming in spring. Use liquid or slow-release granules. Another application may be necessary in about thirty days.

## FERNS

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY

► **To spray** for aphids, especially maidenhair.

► **To water** gently, but do not soak. On cool nights, soaking keeps their feet too cold. Do not rely on rain to find your hidden and covered plants. They may remain dry.

► **To trim** off old fronds in frost free areas.

► **To fertilize** Platyceriums (stag horns) with bone meal, hoof and horn, or high nitrogen liquid.

► **To remove** and remount Platycerium pups.

► **To plant** spores.

► **To check** for spider mites on the underside of fronds. Mites

# Now is the time

## FRUIT TREES AND VINES

VINCENT LAZANEO, HORT. ADVISOR, UC COOP EXTENSION

- ▶ To finish pruning dormant deciduous trees and vines before leaf buds start to grow.
- ▶ To prune evergreens just before or when new growth begins.
- ▶ To spray dormant deciduous trees and vines with horticultural oil before buds begin to open to control overwintering insect pests.
- ▶ To spray dormant peach and nectarine trees with a fungicide such as lime sulfur (calcium polysulfide) before buds begin to open to control leaf curl.
- ▶ To plant dormant bare-root trees and vines.
- ▶ To paint the trunks with whitewash to protect the bark from sunburn injury.
- ▶ To provide frost protection for young citrus and other subtropical fruit trees.

## FUCHSIAS

SAN DIEGO FUCHSIA SOCIETY

- ▶ To prune fuchsias severely if not done in the fall.
- ▶ To clean up all leaves and other trash in baskets, pots, and around ground plants.
- ▶ To spray remaining foliage and ground to eradicate pests that may winter over.
- ▶ To keep plants moist but not wet.
- ▶ To feed with a good fertilizer, such as fish (10-5-5) or a slow-release type. These can be used for your year-round feeding.
- ▶ To use insecticides or fungicides if there is a problem.

## HERBS

JOHN NOBLE

- ▶ To breathe in deeply the fragrance of your herb garden, during or after a winter rain.
- ▶ To plant seeds of winter-flowering herbs, such as calendula, borage, and nasturtium.
- ▶ To prune back winter deciduous shrubs and trees like ginkgo, vitex, and lemon verbena.
- ▶ To weed around and give space to any struggling herbs.
- ▶ To amend the soil throughout the garden.
- ▶ To brew fresh tea with your backyard herbs, such as mints, dandelion, thyme, and sage.
- ▶ To appreciate and use our native herbs like black sage, white

sage, sagebrush, and yerba santa.

- ▶ To bake a fresh loaf of rosemary-flavored bread.

## IRIS

SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL COUNTY IRIS SOCIETY

- ▶ To keep old brown fans off the tall bearded iris. Good ground cleaning and spraying is helpful in pest control.
- ▶ To make last plantings of bulbous irises for spring bloom.
- ▶ To watch watering if rains are light. Rhizomes should not be allowed to dry out.
- ▶ To start a regular spraying program with copper oil to help control rust.
- ▶ To start in February to feed all irises with 0-10-10 liquid fertilizer. Follow directions carefully and do not over-fertilize.

## ORCHIDS

CHARLEY FOUQUETTE

- ▶ To check the moisture in pots of outdoor-growing orchids, including Cymbidiums under cover. Protect them from cold rains and possible hail damage.
- ▶ To continue to stake new spikes on Phalaenopsis and Cymbidiums. Do not rotate plant once spike has started.
- ▶ To feed with a low-nitrogen-high-phosphorus fertilizer on Cymbidiums and an even 18-18-18 on Phalaenopsis, Vandas, and Ascocentrums. Remember, when the days are over 75 degrees, these plants are active and some in the vandacious alliance are very heavy feeders.
- ▶ To keep noble-type *Dendrobiums* on the dry side through the winter. When the buds start to swell in the spring, then you can resume a normal water and fertilizer sequence.
- ▶ To maintain antelope-type *Dendrobiums* (evergreen) like *Phalaenopsis*. They require warmth. The flower spikes will come from the top leaf axils most of the time.
- ▶ To water early in the morning so the plants will be dry by nightfall.
- ▶ To remember the fertilizer requirements of orchids are minuscule compared to other branches of the plant kingdom. Trace minerals such as calcium, magnesium (epsom salts), copper, and boron can benefit most orchids. These can be found in the complete fertilizers available at local nurseries. It is often more useful to feed quarter-strength at each watering as it makes nutrients available up to five times more often.
- ▶ To watch for little creepy crawlies like slugs, snails, scale, mealy bug, whitefly, etc. These may show activity on warm days.



Contact your local orchid nursery for the latest and safest pest deterrent.

▶ **To always** be aware of possible weather changes that would conflict with your successful orchid growing.

## PELARGONIUMS

CAROL ROLLER

▶ **To water** thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Allow the excess water to drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible. Relocate potted plants if there is prolonged rain.

▶ **To continue** feeding with a complete fertilizer. If soilless mix is used, a fertilizer with micronutrients is needed. Use at less than the recommended strength. Apply as often as needed to avoid nutritional deficiencies.

▶ **To continue** a pest control and disease prevention program. Use all products according to the manufacturers' directions.

▶ **To prune** any plants that have not been cut back. At least one green leaf should remain on stems of regals, scented, and similar types. Lanky plants that were previously pruned can be cut back again to produce compact plants. Tip-pinch plants that were pruned in the fall.

▶ **To make** cuttings from the prunings. Shelter the cuttings from extreme weather. Placing them in a warm location will produce roots more rapidly.

▶ **To protect** plants from freezing. Temporary coverings may be used.

▶ **To continue** to rotate plants to keep them well shaped.

## PLUMERIA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY

▶ **To move** your Plumeria to a full-sun area after the last frost.

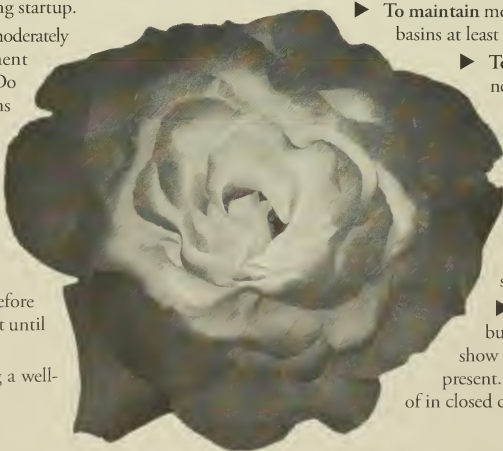
▶ **To prepare** for spring startup.

▶ **To begin** watering moderately until leaf development begins (1-2 inches). Do not use catch basins under your pots.

▶ **To water** and feed when leaves are 2-3 inches long with a low-nitrogen fertilizer such as a 6-10-10.

▶ **To take** cuttings before leaf development. Wait until April to plant.

▶ **To transplant** using a well-drained soil mix.



## ROSES

MARIANNE TRUBY

▶ **To maintain** a complete calendar of procedures you follow in preparing/maintaining/feeding your roses. The work you do now is the basis of your success or failure in the rose garden.

▶ **To strip** any foliage remaining on your bushes and rake and clean up the beds. If you have given your bushes dormant spray in late December, you will be wise to repeat it, weather permitting. This will do a lot to prevent overwintering spores of mildew and rust. Roses grown away from other plants are easier to maintain as they require a regular routine of feeding, watering, and cleanliness. Many problems can be controlled by hosing them off early in the morning.

▶ **To plant** new bushes in holes you prepared earlier. If planting a new rose as a replacement, you will be well advised to supplement the planting mix with soil taken from another area of the garden, along with superphosphate at the bottom of the hole. If the weather is hot and dry, mound soil or mulch up around the canes and keep damp with frequent sprinkling.

▶ **To prune** established hybrid teas mid-January through Valentine's Day. Attend the demonstrations of your local garden clubs held in municipal rose gardens to observe pruning practices and share information with participating members.

▶ **To feed** new plants with liquid fertilizer when bushes have a full set of leaves. These new bushes may be the first to bloom and, after verifying you have the correct plant, break off the bloom, leaving the new growth intact.

▶ **To apply** food to established bushes in early February. A cup of alfalfa meal or pellets worked into the drip basin will help get your bushes off to a good start. Frequent small feedings will produce continuous blooms and beautiful roses throughout the year.

▶ **To maintain** moisture level at all times by filling your water basins at least twice a week.

▶ **To watch** for the first signs of aphids on the new growth and knock them off with a strong stream of water from the hose. They are lazy and will take a few days to climb back up.

▶ **To control** mildew by washing off foliage in the early morning or spray weekly with a fungicide.

▶ **To finger** prune when multiple buds break on the canes, leaving only the strongest to promote strong growth.

▶ **To maintain** a clear area around your bushes to discourage rust fungus, which will show up on the undersides of the leaves when present. Keep infected leaves picked off and dispose of in closed containers.

# Now is the time

## VEGETABLES

VINCENT LAZANEO, HORT. ADVISOR UC COOP EXTENSION

► **To continue** planting cool-season vegetables that are not likely to be damaged by frost. Cool-season vegetables include broccoli, brussels sprouts, beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, endive, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, peas, potatoes (white), radish, rutabaga, and turnip.

► **To use** floating row cover fabric on seeded and transplanted crops to accelerate their growth.

► **To plant** dormant crowns of artichoke, asparagus, and rhubarb.

► **To plant** seeds of medium-day-length onions such as White Sweet Spanish, Stockton Yellow Globe, and Italian Red (short storage life) during February for bulbs in late summer.

► **To order** seeds of warm season vegetables for planting in the spring.

## VEGETABLES, ANNUALS

UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PUBLICATIONS

► **To put** in transplants of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and lettuce, Chinese forget-me-not (*Cynoglossum amabile*), cineraria, fairy primrose (*Primula malacoides*), garden stock (*Matthiola incana*), pansy, pink sand verben, pot marigold (*Calendula*), snapdragon, and viola.

► **To put** in seeds of beet, carrot, chard, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, onion (green and dry), parsnip, spinach, and turnip, such as baby blue eyes, candytuft, China asters, Chinese forget-me-not, coleus, delphinium, dianthus, forget-me-not, hollyhock, impatiens, lobelia, petunia, poppies, scabiosa, sweet alyssum, and Virginia stock (*Malcolmia maritima*).

## COLEUS

BY ROBERT HORWITZ

THE COLEUS PLANT HAS FOUND its way here from Java. The plant is one with exotic varicolored leaves and occasional insignificant blossoms appearing on the top of the leaf stems. Coleus makes a colorful house plant especially near windows which provide ample light and periodic sunlight.

Outdoors it does well as a border plant contrasting its bright leaves with other greenery and the brown of the soil. In pots a mature coleus can reach a foot in height and twice that height in the open ground. To cause the leaves to prosper, pinch off incipient flower buds so that the plants nutrition will go to the leaves.

These leaves come in variegated colors from dark brown or purple and shades thereof. These shades, depending on the plant will come as light as a light tan or dull yellow. Reddish tinges are also available. The leaves can be heart shaped and some are deeply lobed in form.

Culture for coleus is simple. A rich humus laden well draining soil is best. A mostly shaded condition with some



early or late day sun is best. Keep the soil barely damp. Too much water will cause root rot. The plants should be treated as annuals.

Propagation is by seed initially. However, once the plant matures and starts branching out, stems with a few leaves attached can be cut from the parent plant and rooted in water. Cut the stems free with a few nodes along the stem where leaves have been removed. The stem should be at least ¼ inch in diameter. Use a small juice glass for holding the cutting to be rooted. Keep indoors on warm and light shelf. Roots will appear in about two weeks. When a reasonable amount of rooting has grown, plant into soil and keep fairly damp until the plant gets established.

Robert Horwitz is a retired space engineer who gardens in the Point Loma section of San Diego.

# SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

**February and March 2006**

## CRAFT AND FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOPS

All classes 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Room 104, Casa del Prado. Coffee and sweets provided; bring your own lunch. Call Marie Walsh for information at 619-298-5182. To register and pay, contact SDFA at 619-232-5762. Preregistration recommended as enrollment is limited.

**February 7, 2006**

**Pine Needle Basket**

Teacher: Marie Walsh All materials furnished.

Cost: \$25 for members; \$30 for nonmembers.

**February 14, 2006**

**Large 3-Ring Basket**

Teacher: Marie Walsh Natural and man-made materials.

Bring pail, clippers, towel (and your lunch).

Cost: \$25 for members; \$30 for nonmembers.

**February 28, 2006**

**Big and Beautiful: A Floral Design Using Large Materials and Bold Flowers**

Teacher: Velma West, retired flower judge, award-winning floral designer, and teacher.

Bring container, clippers, and flowers.

Cost: \$30

**March 7, 14, and 21, 2006**

**Gourd Workshop**

Teacher: M. J. Wyrdo

This is a series of three progressive sessions to complete a gourd project of your choice using paint, dye, and beading. All materials and tools supplied.

Reservations and prepayment essential.

Cost: \$50 for three classes, plus \$10 materials fee for instructor.

**March 28, 2006**

**Break Dancing: A Design in Motion**

Teacher: Velma West, retired flower judge, award-winning floral designer, and teacher.

Bring container, clippers, and flowers.

Cost: \$30

**It's easy to register!** Just fill out this form and mail it to San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1622. Payment for classes must be included. For more information on these classes, see p. 20.

☐ **February 7, 2006**

**Pine Needle Basket**

Cost: \$25 for members; \$30 for nonmembers.

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**Break Dancing: A Design in Motion**

Cost: \$30

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

# PLANTS THAT COULD BE *Movie Stars*

## Part I: The Natives

By PAT PAWLOWSKI

**S**TARS IN THE GARDEN. Movie stars, that is. Let's face it, motion picture people fascinate most of us--so much so that we know more about some of them than we do our own relatives. (Which, given some kinds of relatives, might be a good idea.)

Anyway, actors and actresses provide us with a little extra oomph and glamour in our everyday lives. Luckily for us star-struck gardeners, there are some plants that can very well do the same for our yards. And now is a great time to introduce these awe-inspiring leafy individuals into your landscape, since winter brings rain and gives natives the foothold they need to weather the long hot summer.

### THE CAST

In the movie world, there is a lot of pushing and shoving and finagling as many would-be and many have-been stars strive to land a limited amount of important roles.

And what role may be more important than one played out in your garden?

Here, then, is a partial list of California native plants that can provide your garden scene with

a little extra visual excitement, both through their own bodaciousness and their loyal fans (birds, butterflies and other beneficial bugs), which are sure to follow.

**DESERT WILLOW (CHILOPSIS LINEARIS)** Sons of the desert (and daughters as well) will appreciate this very heat- and drought-tolerant, slender-leaved tree with scented trumpet-like flowers in colors of pink, lavender, white, and purple. A bit straggly with age, but aren't we all?

**SILK TASSEL (GARRYA ELLIPTICA)** As a shrub, it is a good performer, yet dramatically underused. The attractions here are the white flower catkins that give a dripping down effect in the winter, somewhat like icicles but without the cold and misery.

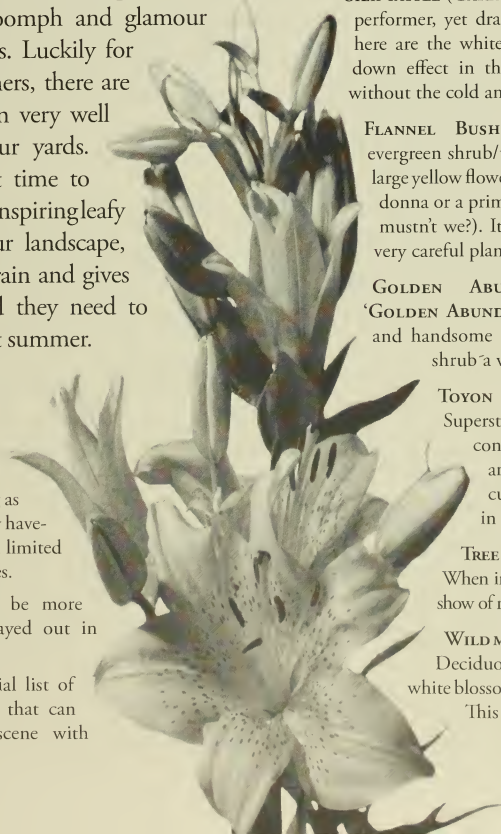
**FLANNEL BUSH (FREMONTODENDRON SPP.)** An evergreen shrub/tree that provides a stunning show of large yellow flowers. However, it is somewhat of a prima donna or a prima don (we must be politically correct, mustn't we?). It demands no summer irrigation plus very careful planting.

**GOLDEN ABUNDANCE MAHONIA (MAHONIA 'GOLDEN ABUNDANCE')** Large yellow flower clusters and handsome evergreen foliage make this upright shrub a winner.

**TOYON (HETEROMELES ARBUTIFOLIA)** Superstar evergreen tree that has a Hollywood connection. Lush red berries appear around Thanksgiving. "Davis gold," a cultivar with yellow berries, is distinctive in closeups.

**TREE MALLOW (LAVATERA ASSURGENTIFLORA)** When in bloom, provides a drop-dead-gorgeous show of rose-white flowers. Good for quick effects.

**WILD MOCK ORANGE (PHILADELPHIS LEWISII)** Deciduous shrub with large, fragrant, satin white blossoms. Needs partial shade in inland areas. This variety is not from Philadelphia.





**REDBERRY (RHAMNUS CROCEA)** Small red berries glisten like tiny rubies when the sun hits them. Evergreen shrub with minuscule leaves on stiff branches.

**CALIFORNIA FUCHSIA (ZAUSCHNERIA spp.)** Perennial subshrubs with wonderful flowers of eye-popping red-orange. Useful on dry banks.

**PENSTEMONS (PENSTEMON spp.)** Perennials with showy tubular flowers in a range of colors. "Margarita BOP" has brilliant blue blossoms with a bit of lavender in the throat.

**INDIAN PINK (SILENE CALIFORNICA)** Small perennial with astounding, flaming red flowers that resemble firecracker bursts. The "pink" in the name refers to the petals, which are fringed, as if they were trimmed by pinky shears.

**CLEVELAND SAGE (SALVIA CLEVELANDII)** Flowers with a scent to remind you of the wild wild west. "Whirly Blue" is a good cultivar. When the sun is lighting them (at high noon, for example) the flowers become an ethereal blue.

**SHAW'S CENTURY PLANT (AGAVE SHAWII)** A smallish succulent with rosette leaves and a large orange flower spike. Sun, of course, and only seasonal water.

There are many other unknowns that deserve a crack at the big time (your garden). They are too numerous to mention here. It may be best for them to be "discovered" by you during your talent search at the nurseries mentioned below.

## THE DIRECTOR

That's you, of course.

## THE PRODUCER

Also you, with help from places like Rancho Jojoba Nursery (619-561-0751), Tree of Life Nursery (949-728-0685), Las Pilitas Nursery (760-749-5930), Coastal Sage Gardening (619-223-5229), and Theodore Payne Foundation (818-768-1802).

## THE SCREENPLAY

The script of your garden drama may be well-planned, with blueprints and sketches done by a garden designer.

However, the plants in the drama will of course be free to ad-lib. For example, the flannel bush may decide to die, much like a movie character named Camille, if it is given too much water. The Indian pink may decide to get itself chomped by jaws (of some bunny, that is). Indeed, almost any plant may give way to stage fright at some time or other. However, research to determine the proper cultural

requirements and scenery can keep you and your plant from going psycho.

## THE EDITOR

Cuts sometimes have to be made by you, generally after the plant has bloomed. Judicious pruning can make for a bushier plant in the future. However, in some instances, you may want to leave seed heads on (1) if you want to feed the birds, (2) if the seed heads provide interest, or (3) if you are lazy.

## THE MUSICAL SCORE

Songbirds provide this while snacking on the fruits of toyon, redberry, and mahonia. Hummingbirds, not known for beautiful tweeting, do make little chipping sounds as the colorful males curse each other to damnation for invading their respective territories. These little sweeties will appreciate the nectar contained in California fuchsias, sages, and penstemons.

## THE FINAL ACT

Actually, in gardening, there is none. You're never done (and that's a good thing).

## THE AWARDS

From here to eternity, there will be oohs and aahs, both from visitors and your own self, as your garden unfolds the tale of life with all its color and drama—the greatest show on earth. In fact, you'll feel so good about the whole thing that you'll probably start planning a sequel.

*Pat Pawlowski is a writer/lecturer and the wildlife garden designer for Animated Gardens, 619-390-9399.*



Ikebana International  
Presents its annual  
**Spring Floral Exhibition**  
Saturday and Sunday, March 18-19, 2006  
11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.  
at Casa del Prado, Balboa Park  
Japanese Culture Show- Sunday only

# From Balboa Park's First Teahouse Japanese Friendship Garden and

BY VIRGINIA MAPLES INNIS

There is a Japanese Friendship Garden and Tea Pavilion in Balboa Park. The garden is open Tuesday through Sunday and closed on Mondays. Hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The pavilion, a communal establishment, is open the same hours as the garden, seven days a week. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, the garden is open an additional hour on weekdays.

The garden opened in 1990, and since then, it has been developed in phases. The first part of the garden developed the flat land available for the garden. Where development stopped, the land is canyon.

In 1990, the garden opened with more than two acres of developed landscape. In 1999, the garden closed for six months and improvements were added to the already developed area. Added were the tea pavilion, an entry plaza, a koi pond with a waterfall, a Bonsai collection of trees made miniature, and a fujidana. Also added was an administration house with office space and a room for activity and education.

## THE ENTRY PLAZA

The tea pavilion is outside the garden and open to the public. Customers have the option of being seated inside or outside in a chair at an umbrella-covered table. There is considerable space in the entry plaza for the tea pavilion's outside seating in front of the building. The paved area in front of the entry gate has standing room for a crowd. On the morning Point Loma Garden Club toured the garden, members selected to sit on a low wall that defines the entry plaza's space. It's close to the entry gate.

Garden Club members listened while Sandra Erbetta told them about the garden. Mrs. Erbetta is a member of the Point Loma Garden Club and the Japanese Friendship Garden. A volunteer of the garden, Mrs. Erbetta said that garden guides are available if reservations are made at least two weeks in advance.

## THE TEA PAVILION

The tea pavilion benefits the Japanese Friendship Garden, which selects to be a landlord rather than running the pavilion. Most people who visit the garden become customers of the tea

pavilion before or after the garden visit. Many come to have lunch there.

Some of the foods offered are soups, salads, and rice and noodle bowls. Sandwiches are served with Japanese potato salad. Sushi is available served there or in a box to go. There is a choice of 22 teas, and cold beverages are also available. Vegetarian food is on the menu as well, as are sweets that complement the teas.

## THE EXHIBIT HOUSE

Close to the entry gate is the exhibition house. Entrance comes with the garden entry fee. Point Loma Garden Club saw a doll collection and was attracted to a rather large doll house that is usually on exhibit. The doll house is furnished inside and outside. It was donated to the garden by Virginia K. Hushke. It is from Yokohoma, Japan, circa 1932.

The next month, the exhibit house had an exhibit of Suiseki, which is the art of viewing stones. Along the strolling path, the exhibit is next to the koi pond and waterfall, where the koi are said to be reproducing.

Before the house, the path divides and either direction will take you to the other side of the administration house.

## THE ADMINISTRATION HOUSE

Where the path divides are planted three evergreen magnolia trees. They will not reach the size or height of a one-tree planting, but they provide additional beautiful canopy. Many magnolias are planted along the strolling path. Some are very small shrubs.

Javier Palacios seemed pleased when asked how the magnolias are doing. He is head gardener and has been at the garden more than 10 years.

"When it rains," Mr. Palacios said, "we catch all the rain water possible, but the rain water is for the Bonsai collection, and when that water is gone, it's gone, and we use tap water." The gardeners keep the garden well-pruned and pristinely clean.

The garden derives the benefits from the tea pavilion. The garden also receives funds from the city of San Diego Commission of Arts and Culture. But its greatest support is

# and Garden to Its Second Pavilion, Part II

*Editor's Note: Part I of this article appeared in the September/October 2005 issue of California Garden.*

from club memberships, garden entrance fees, and donations. The garden is a nonprofit organization and all the money that comes into the organization goes for the garden support and maintenance.

## ENTRY FEES

When the garden opened in 1990, the entry fee was \$5. That fee is now \$3 for adults, \$2.50 for seniors, \$2 for students, and children are free. Members of the Japanese Friendship Garden may enter free when the garden is open.

## PROMOTING JAPANESE CULTURE

The exhibit house is educational and the garden is very proud of the program it has for San Diego schools' fifth-grade students. San Diego city schools attempt to utilize the resources of Balboa Park. Fifth-grade students tour the Japanese Friendship Garden and learn about Japanese culture from volunteer Harold Kuhn, who is very knowledgeable in Japanese culture. The Japanese Friendship Garden is rich in the quality of its volunteers, such as Mr. Kuhn.

## FUTURE PLANS

In the downhill developed area, cherry trees are planted. In the spring, they bloom and show their presence and promise in the garden. Future plans for the garden include a Cherry Blossom Grove, a tea house, waterfalls, and plants and trees. Lush plantings are along the strolling path and a lot of American plants are used in the garden, which ties into the garden's philosophy of incorporating the Japanese garden with our regional landscape and climate.

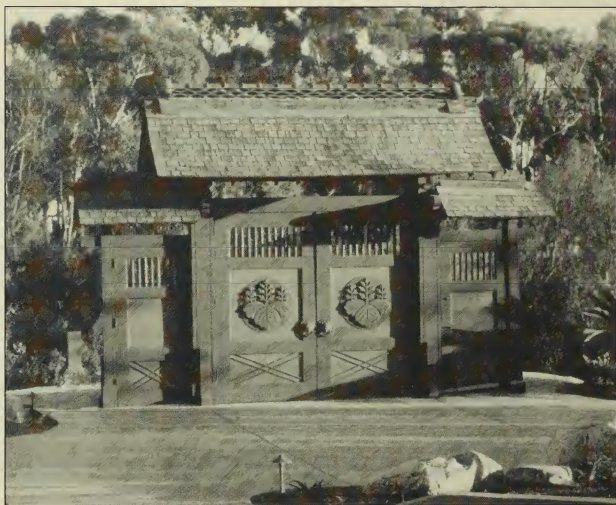
## THE MEANING OF THE WORDS

The actual name of the new garden is SAN-KEI-EN, which roughly means "three-scene garden," mountain-nature-lake.

There is a well-known garden in Yokohoma, Japan, with a similar name. Because of this, the San Diego garden in Balboa Park is called the Japanese Friendship Garden.

Evidence of San Diego's sister city relationship is apparent in the many gifts from the city, the people, and the organizations of Yokohoma. These items are on exhibit in the Japanese Friendship Garden.

*Virginia Innis toured the Japanese Friendship Garden with the Point Loma Garden Club. She enjoyed its beauty.*



## VISITING THE GARDEN

To visit the garden, budget at least two hours' time. A tour group will need to make arrangements but individuals can just show up at the garden. Tour arrangements can be made directly with the garden.

Japanese Friendship Garden  
2128 Park Blvd.  
San Diego, CA 92101  
619-232-2721

# REVIEWS

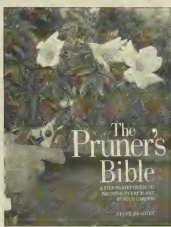
## THE PRUNER'S BIBLE

BY STEVE BRADLEY  
RODALE BOOKS

Pruning can be a kind of therapy for gardeners, but as human stresses melt away, the benefit for the subject shrub or tree may not always be apparent. The basic "rules" of cutting out cross branches or cutting back 20 to 30 percent or cutting out the old wood, or the new wood, can fade to confusion and uncertainty. Help is on the way with this handsome volume, which, while written in England, holds enough universal truths to guide even the most novice of gardeners toward a pruning job well done.

A discussion of the reasons for pruning leads into a detailed presentation of tools and safety measures for all kinds of pruning tasks. Basic cutting and trimming techniques for a variety of purposes are clearly diagrammed. The main part of the book is devoted to specific instructions for pruning specific shrubs, from abelias to wisterias. Each plant is shown in full color on one page and in a pruning diagram on the facing page. General growing information and directions for formative, routine, and remedial pruning plus recommended tools and seasons for pruning are given for each plant. The handsome photos and the attractive diagrams provide a clear picture of the plant characteristics.

A special section on trees includes those with standard shapes, conifers, and hedges. The variety of hedging styles includes a "tapestry" combined of several different shrubs whose colors and textures provide an interesting garden feature.



Climbing plants and groundcovers are also considered, as are techniques for specialized pruning, such as pollarding, pleaching, or pruning roots. A chapter on renovation pruning (for the correction of prunings past) and low-maintenance pruning (for the future) rounds out the total value of this very useful book.—Marjorie Howard-Jones

## DESIGN IN THE PLANT COLLECTOR'S GARDEN

BY ROGER TURNER  
TIMBER PRESS

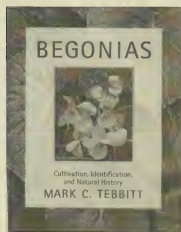
Some are obsessed by geraniums, others by roses, but whatever your garden addiction, you could end up with all plants but no garden. At least, as the subtitle suggests, that is the author's perception of a dangerous plant-collecting pitfall. His aim is to turn plant collecting into a design advantage by utilizing basic landscape principles such as framing a view, providing paths to invite strolling, and balancing empty and planted spaces.

In view of the fact that most plant collectors are in it for the plants, rather than the effect, he offers suggestions for considering the seasonal appeal of some plants, with groundcovers or "fillers," and the pluses or minuses of grouping and/or dispersing single-genus collections. The effect of high- and low-impact plants is discussed, even as it is acknowledged that the pleasure of watching plants



develop in the long-term is basic to the plant-collecting mentality. The author's collection of euphorbias is shown in its garden setting in contrast to a similar collection in a commercial nursery. Most of Turner's photos accentuate the positive, but he includes a few questionable examples.

Beyond the first few general chapters, most of the specific information about garden design is in the text, rather than the photos. Many photos feature aspects of English gardens of the stately home variety, which are lovely to look at but not always applicable to our area. The author writes in a rambling conversational manner, with many suggestions for specific plant material that can be combined with any plant collection: groundcovers to hold a space for bulbs, for instance, or trees for framing a view. A lengthy discussion of garden border styles emphasizes the small scale of cottage gardens and the grasses and daisies that define a meadow border. His recipe for a low-maintenance border of groundcovers, small shrubs, and perennials would interest most local readers, but it is the rich offering of general landscape design ideas that will appeal to everyone.—MHJ



## BEGONIAS

BY MARK C. TEBBITT  
TIMBER PRESS

This handsome book is exhaustive—but also exhausting! It is really only for the specialist grower or hybridizer. Names are given

only in Latin rather than their popular/garden names. Thus, if you are attempting to look up, say, wax begonias,



a common bedding plant, you're really out of luck unless you happen to know that you should look under *Begonia Semperflorens*, upon which you will discover that you should really have looked under *Begonia cucullata*, only then finding the description. If you want information on tuberous begonias, good luck! Although you will find some information under *Begonia x tuberhybrida*, it's mainly about the origin of today's spectacular hybrids, rather than those hybrids themselves. As for cultural information, everything about begonias' rather varied culture is summed up in 13 brief pages of a 250-page book—and that includes pests and diseases! In short, this is not a book for anyone other than the professional. All others would be better advised to consult the entry on begonias in Sunset's *Western Garden Book* or some other more user-friendly text geared toward the home gardener.—Fredrik Liljeblad

## PLANTED AQUARIUMS: CREATION AND MAINTENANCE

BY **CHRISTEL KASSELLMANN**  
KRIEGER PUBLISHING COMPANY

The serious plant aquarium hobbyist or the beginner will enjoy this comprehensive and scientific hands-on guide. Every detail of creating and maintaining a plant aquarium are discussed in this little book, which is crammed with wonderful color photos and charts. Discussion on light, soil, water, and plant selection are given in great detail. There are also complete sections on problem solving, fish, and the use of unusual aquarium plants.

The book offers very good information on planning one's aquarium with 10 color and number-coded layouts showing the placement of the various plants in the aquarium and which plants to use.

The plant table in the appendix lists

over 100 aquatic plants with details as to their origin, characteristics, size, growing requirements, use, and comments from the author. Also included is a list of page numbers where the color photos of each of the plants can be seen throughout the book.

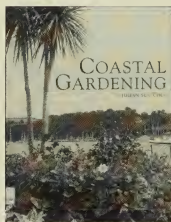
Even if you have never given a thought to starting an aquarium, this book makes you want to rush right out to the local pet shop or aquarium shop and start one.—Kathy Taylor de Murillo

## COASTAL GARDENING

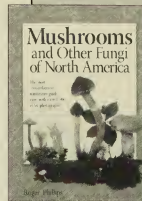
BY **JULIAN SLATCHER**  
THE CROWOOD PRESS, 2005

When I first picked up this trade paperback, I thought, "Perfect! Coastal gardeners will adore this." Well, a few pages told a somewhat less gleeful tale: This is a British book whose definition of "coastal" extends from Scotland, in the far north, to Devon and Cornwall in the south. Given the rainy nature of the entire British climate, this limits its usefulness here in San Diego, which is far closer to the coast of Southern

France, coastal South Africa, and Australia in terms of overall climate. That said, there are many things that the San Diego gardener could glean from this copiously illustrated how-to guide. The first half of the book deals with the basics of coastal gardening: wind, salt spray, poor soil, etc., and suggests assorted stratagems for dealing with each of these. The second half of the book is a plant encyclopedia with a great many plants that the San Diego gardener—not just those on the coast—will recognize, such as New Zealand flax, *Nasturtium*, *Agapanthus*, *Canna*, *Miscanthus*, *Hibiscus*, *Fuchsia*, and *Callistemon* (bottlebrush). Although many of the caveats are UK-specific, this book may prove at least somewhat useful to San Diego gardeners.—FL



## BRIEFLY NOTED



### Mushrooms and Other Fungi of North America

by Roger Phillips  
Firefly Books

This 320-page hardcover reference is a reprint of the classic guide of the same name first

published in soft cover in 1991 and out of print, though still in demand, for more than 10 years. Arranged alphabetically, the book contains more than 1,000 studio color photographs of the most common mushrooms of North America, providing an indispensable aid to identification. Stringent cautions against eating unidentified wild mushrooms are presented, including the caution that a refrigerated sample of any wild mushroom consumed should be kept for use by hospital staff in case any nasty symptoms develop!—Karin Kratz



### Encyclopedia of Hydrangeas

by C.J. van Gelderen  
and D.M. van  
Gelderen  
Timber Press, Inc.  
Beautifully illustrated  
with 795 color  
photographs of more

than 1,000 types of hydrangeas, this hardcover "encyclopedia" includes the latest introductions together with taxonomy, genetics, and horticultural history of this classic garden shrub. Containing photographs from throughout Europe, but also broadly applicable to the California Mediterranean climate, this book also describes in detail how the gardener can manipulate soil conditions to induce these "mophead" flowers to change color.—KK



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June 20

October 17

Casa del Prado, Room 101

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## The Writings of Guy Fleming

The Torrey Pines Docent Society's newest publication is Guy Fleming's Writings and Related Articles. In the years 1915 through 1956, Guy Fleming contributed articles for publication in the San Diego Floral Association's magazine, California Garden. Fleming wrote about Torrey Pines State Reserve, its history, efforts to save it, and plans for the future. He paints a word picture of the spring flower bloom and describes the role played by the Natural History Museum and the San Diego Floral Association in developing the area.

One section of reports is called "Californians Abroad," in which he explains how some plant species native to our area are now thriving in other parts of the state, country, and the world. Another series is called "Wanderings." As he wandered about the county, he wrote accounts describing the geography and plant life.

Occasionally he would write a seasonal article, such as "The Mysterious Mistletoe," or "Christmas Green." The "Related Articles" portion includes articles by A.D. Robinson, Lena Hunzicker, Robert Mansfield, and Lila Fleming.

Fans of Guy Fleming will enjoy traveling with him in his appreciation for nature's beauty and his efforts to preserve and protect what he observed.

### Guy Fleming's Writings and Related Articles

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### Roland Hoyt Reprint

Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions by Roland Stewart Hoyt has been reprinted by his sons. Until now, this book has been available only at rare book stores. His sons, Bill and Mike, have donated the new books to the San Diego Floral Association. Ten dollars of each book sale will be added to the scholarship fund established in the name of Ethel and Roland Hoyt.

Half the book is a written description and sketch of each plant. In recent years, many scientific names have been changed, but there is an updated nomenclature at the end of the book.

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